AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): ~~Stereocomplex~~ A stereocomplex hydrogel composition, comprising a mixture of a first and a second polymer,

wherein each first and each second polymer [[have]] has at least one hydrophilic region and at least two oligomeric degradable regions which are hydrolysable under physiological conditions and which comprise enantiomerically enriched chiral monomeric units, and

wherein at least one of the degradable regions of the first polymer and at least one of the degradable regions of the second polymer have predominantly opposite chirality, and

wherein at least some of the degradable regions present in the composition are ~~characterised by the absence of~~ do not contain free terminal hydroxyl groups.

2. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to~~ The composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and the second polymer is a graft polymer, of which the hydrophilic region is the backbone and the degradable regions are the side chains.

3. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to~~ The composition of claim 2, wherein said graft polymer has an average degree of substitution (DS) between about 2% and about 15%.

4. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to~~ The composition of claim 2[[or 3]], wherein the side chains of said graft polymer have an average degree of polymerisation (DP) in the range of about 7% to 15%.

5. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to any of claims 2 to 4~~ The composition of claim 2, wherein the side chains of said graft polymer have a polydispersity of not more than about 1.5%.

6. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to~~ The composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and the second polymer is a block polymer comprising three or more blocks, and wherein the degradable regions form at least the terminal blocks of said block polymer.

7. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to~~ The composition of claim 6, wherein at least one of the first and the second polymer is an ABA block polymer, wherein the hydrophilic region forms the central B block.

8. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to any of the preceding claims~~ The composition of claim 1, wherein the degradable region is attached to the hydrophilic region via a linking group ~~which is preferably~~ selected from the group consisting of ester groups, amide groups, and urethane groups.

9. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to~~ The composition of claim 8, wherein the linking group is hydrolytically more stable than the degradable region.

10. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to any of the preceding claims~~ The composition of claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic region of at least one of the first and the second polymer is derived from a member of the group consisting of

polysaccharides including dextran, starch, cellulose and cellulose ~~derivates~~ derivatives, alginates, pectin, and chitosan;

polypeptides including albumin, ~~lysozym~~ lysozyme, poly(amino acids), including poly(lysine) and related copolymers, poly(glutamic acid) and related copolymers;

poly(acrylates)/(acrylamides) including poly(alkyl acrylates)/(alkyl acrylamides) ~~such as~~ including poly(methacrylate), poly(hydroxyethyl methacrylate), poly(hydroxypropyl methacrylate), poly(hydroxyethyl methacrylamide), poly(hydroxypropyl methacrylamide); and

poly(vinylalcohol), poly(ethylene glycol), water soluble polyphosphazenes, and mixtures thereof.

11. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to any of the preceding claims~~ The composition of claim 1, wherein the degradable regions of at least one of the first and the second polymer are predominantly composed of enantiomerically enriched (L)- and/or (D)-lactate units.

12. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to~~ The composition of claim 11, wherein at least some of the degradable regions predominantly composed of

enantiomerically enriched (L)- and/or (D)-lactate units further comprise monomeric units selected from glycolate, ε-caprolactone, and ~~propriolactone~~ β-propiolactone units.

13. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to any of the preceding claims~~ The composition of claim 1, wherein essentially all degradable regions of the first polymer are of opposite chirality to essentially all degradable regions of the second polymer.

14. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to any of the preceding claims~~ The composition of claim 1, wherein at least some of the degradable regions of the first or second polymer bear terminal acyl groups.

15. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to any of the preceding claims, being~~ The composition of claim 1, which is shaped as a plurality of microparticles, as a sheet, or a single implantable unit.

16. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to any of the preceding claims~~ The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically active compound.

17. (currently amended): ~~Hydrogel composition according to~~ The composition of claim 16, wherein the pharmaceutically active compound is a protein.

18. (currently amended): ~~Method~~ A method for preparing ~~a hydrogel composition according to any of claims 1 to 17~~ the composition of claim 1, comprising a step of combining the first polymer and the second polymer in the presence of water and, optionally, other excipients.

19. (original): The method of claim 18, wherein the step of combining the first and the second polymer is conducted in the presence of a pharmaceutically active compound.

20. (currently amended): [[Kit]] A kit for the preparation of ~~a hydrogel composition according to any of claims 1 to 17~~ the composition of claim 1, comprising a first component comprising the first polymer and a second component comprising the second polymer.

21. (currently amended): [[Kit]] A kit for the preparation of ~~a hydrogel composition according to any of claims 1 to 17~~ the composition of claim 1, comprising a first component comprising the first and the second polymer, and a second component comprising water.

22. (original): The kit of claim 21, wherein said first component comprises a xerogel capable of forming a stereocomplex hydrogel upon hydration.

23. (currently amended): The kit of ~~any of claims 20 to 22~~ claim 20, further comprising a pharmaceutically active compound.

24. (canceled)

25. (new): The kit of claim 21, further comprising a pharmaceutically active compound.

26. (new): An injectable or implantable pharmaceutical formulation, a wound dressing, or a replacement tissue that comprises the composition of claim 1.